

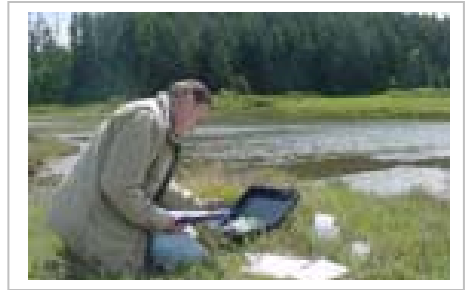
2004 Report of Accomplishments

San Juan County Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2004 - Summary

- Completed 9 new farm/forest plans for local landowners incorporating best management practices that will reduce erosion, reduce contaminated runoff, improve soil quality, improve wildlife habitat, enhance groundwater recharge, and reduce fire risk.
- Continued and expanded “early warning” surface water quality monitoring program, examining 5 to 7 parameters in eight watersheds on three of the San Juan islands. Water quality is regularly monitored at 25 sites within those watersheds.
- Conducted San Juan County’s second cycle of the Watershed Stewards training program with six stewards completing the training on San Juan Island.
- Generated approximately 650 hours of volunteer participation in local conservation projects.
- Completed a restoration feasibility study for the Port Stanley tidal lagoon and salt marsh on Lopez Island and initiated efforts to fund the restoration itself.
- Continued and expanded a Garry Oak habitat restoration project on Cady Mountain, San Juan Island, increasing the acreage from 50 to 80 acres and the number cooperators from 9 to 12.
- Implemented extensive public information and education program reaching approximately 120 individuals through workshops, 800 households through newsletters, 9,000 households through monthly articles in local newspaper, and 700 households through public displays.



Mission of the San Juan County Conservation District

To work with landowners and residents to develop sustainable land use practices that protect and conserve San Juan County’s soil and water for wildlife habitat, forestry, farming, residential, and other uses.

Water Quality Implementation

- Engaged 19 landowners in on-the-ground conservation planning and BMP implementation, assisting them with the following practices which are either implemented or planned/in progress:
 - 7,465 feet of fencing
 - 181.62 acres prescribed grazing
 - 184.8 acres use exclusion
 - 18.25 acres upland wildlife habitat management
 - 188.17 acres nutrient management
 - 9 manure composting or waste storage facilities
 - 4 roof runoff management systems
 - 7 acres of forest stand improvement
 - 3 acres filter strip
 - 2.5 acres irrigation system and irrigation water management
 - Other BMPs put in place or in progress: forage harvest management, heavy use area protection, brush management, waste utilization, pest management, riparian forest buffer, solar powered irrigation system
- Provided general technical assistance to over 150 additional landowners.

Basic Funding combined with Local Funding

- Maintained essential district operations—including board support, annual elections, financial management, required reporting and record keeping, basic operational infrastructure.
- Conducted the district’s second election-by-mail. Number of ballots requested and mailed to voters increased 30% over the 2003 election
- Leveraged additional district funding for conservation and stewardship projects totaling more than \$235,000. Secured 3-year funding commitment for new Low Impact Development project.
- Supported district engagement in Natural Resources Conservation Service Local Work Group in an effort to secure additional NRCS financial and technical assistance for San Juan County landowners.

Puget Sound/Water Quality

- Continued implementation of district-developed watershed plans for Swifts Bay, False Bay, and Westsound watersheds:
 - Surface water quality monitoring in progress on all three main islands;
 - Port Stanley Lagoon restoration feasibility study and restoration plan completed;
 - Initiated Low Impact Development project, focused on False Bay Watershed, promoting use of low impact principles and practices in land use, land development, and retrofit of existing development.

Professional Engineering

- Completed design restoration plan for Port Stanley lagoon and salt marsh system, including tide gate design, dredging plan, and review of required permitting.
- Continued to provide technical assistance for Deer Harbor estuary restoration project.
- Provided necessary engineering support for eight RMS farm plans.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- Expanded Garry Oak habitat restoration project, funded under the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, from 50 to 80 acres and from 9 cooperators to 12.
- Continued to serve as Salmon Recovery Funding Board Lead Entity for WRIA 2, soliciting 5 local proposals for SRF Round 5, forwarding 3 projects for SRFB action: a shoreline softening restoration project, a seagrass restoration feasibility study, and an assessment of juvenile salmon use of nearshore habitat.

Small Farm Programs

- All district farm assistance is directed to small farms (see Water Quality Implementation accomplishments).
- Addressed the growing natural resource risks from increasing numbers of small, noncommercial livestock operations (especially horses) by providing specialized workshops for this population and consultations for those considering acquisition of livestock.
- Two temporary cross-fencing kits (to demonstrate value of rotational grazing) consistently on loan; district manure spreader used by five cooperators.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Continued ongoing collaboration with local school districts in conducting water quality monitoring on San Juan and Lopez Islands.
- Assisted San Juan County Health Department with county-wide stream flow assessment.
- Developed and presented workshops on backyard barnyards, noxious weeds, and conservation funding programs in collaboration with San Juan Cooperative Extension.
- District Lead Entity Coordinator serves on San Juan County Marine Resources Committee.

Information & Education

- Watershed Stewards program continues to establish a population of citizen watershed advocates.
- Implemented an extensive public information and education program which included:
 - 7 public workshops or conferences attended by 120 persons;
 - monthly natural resources question and answer column;
 - extensive and recently upgraded district website;
 - semi-annual newsletter;
 - conservation/stewardship folio.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

